

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4213
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

S E C R E T GENEVA 9933

FOR AMB SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR RH UK
SUBJ: ZAMBIANS CLAIM MUZOREWA GROUP DISINTEGRATING

1. DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH ZAMBIAN OBSERVER MARK CHONA DEC 14, CHONA SAID MUZOREWA'S DELEGATION IS BEGINNING TO COME APART AT THE SEAMS. ACCORDING TO CHONA'S INFORMATION, ELLIOT GABELLAH HAS RESIDNGED AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ANC AND AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS, FAILED TO SHOW UP AT THE AIRPORT IN SALISBURY TO WELCOME MUZOREWA UPON HIS RETURN OVER THE WEEKEND. CHONA CLAIMS THAT GABELLAH MADE APPROACHES TO MUGABE'S GROUP BEFORE LEAVING GENEVA LAST WEEK BUT IS FOR THE MOMENT NEUTRAL. OTHER MEMBERS OF MUZOREWA'S DELEGATION, SAID CHONA, ARE ALSO ON THE VERGE OF BOLTING THE PARTY. REMARKING ON THE BISHOP'S LEADERSHIP ABILITIES, CHONA SAID, "GOD MUST HAVE BEEN DESPERATE IF HE CHOSE MUZOREWA TO BE ONE OF HIS SERVANTS."

2. COMMENT: IT WAS CLEAR FROM CHONA'S REMARKS THAT THE ZAMBIANS ARE STILL INFURIATED OVER MUZOREWA'S CHANGES THAT THEY, ALONG WITH THE BRITISH AND OTHER FRONT LINE LEADERS, ARE COLLUDING TO IMPOSE NKOMO AS FIRST BLACK LEADER OF ZIMBABWE. GIVEN ZAMBIANS ABIDING PREFERENCE FOR NKOMO AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND UNASSUAGED ENMITY FOR MUZOREWA, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT

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CHONA'S ASSMENT OF THE BISHOP'S PARTY REFLECTS A

CERTAIN AMOUNT OF WISHFUL THINKING. NEVERTHELESS,
IN VIEW OF EARLIER INDICATIONS OF DISSENTION IN THE
MUZOREWA CAMP, THE SITUATION BEARS WATCHING. CATTO

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